

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



19  
p69 Pa

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

LIBRARY  
RECEIVED

A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations, Monday, May 18, 1936.

- - - - -

Hello folks. I wish it were possible for me to pay each and every one of you who are listening today a brief visit and spend a little time 'is going over some of your problems connected with your gardens and the care of your home surroundings. We receive thousands of letters in the Department, letters written by people all over the country, asking for information on how to plant and cultivate this or that crop, and especially asking how to control some disease or insect that is troubling their crops. First I want to remind you that the United States Department of Agriculture is a big institution with a large number of specialists who are working on particular problems. Naturally these workers have the very latest information on the subject on which they are working and it often happens that a letter containing several questions must be referred to several workers in order that all of the information may be supplied. This all takes time and sometimes accounts for what may seem to you a long, long time before the reply to your questions reaches you.

Right here I want to remind you that the proper place for you to go for information in many cases is your own State College or Experiment Station. Where you have a County Agricultural Agent in your county by all means consult him first. He may have the information you are seeking or in his collection he may have a State or Federal bulletin that gives exactly the information you are seeking. Already we are receiving letters asking what should be done to check some disease or insect that is destroying cucumber or melon vines. By the time we can get the information to you the disease or insect has probably done its work and your crop is a loss. You folks who live in the area infested by the Mexican Bean Beetle know that if you do not apply remedies when the beetles first appear that your beans will be lost. The same is true of the leaf-blight that affect tomatoes and cucumbers and melons. Bordeaux mixture is the universal spray mixture for the control, or rather prevention, of the various rusts and leaf-spots that attack so many of our garden crops, but I wonder how many of you have copper sulphate and lime on hand from which you could make up a batch of bordeaux on short notice.

I want to remind you that the information on insects and their control is all furnished by the workers in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the Department, and by the Entomologists of the State Colleges and Experiment Stations, but any insect questions that you send to me will be promptly turned over to the proper persons for attention.

Most of us as gardeners know from past experience that we are certain to run into trouble from diseases and insects in our gardens and orchards during the growing season and it is essential that we have the necessary

(over)

equipment and materials on hand to fight these pests when they appear, or at least to ascertain that our local dealer has the necessary poisons and fungicides in stock so that we can get them at a moments notice.

Right here I want to sound a word of warning about the careless handling and use of poisons for every season there are reported cases of poisoning from chemicals that are used for the control of insects or diseases of garden and orchard crops. Another point, arsenate of lead and other poisons must not be applied to the edible portion of any food crop or to any part of the plant in case its application might affect the edible part. There are on the market certain non poisonous preparations, made largely from the flowers of pyrethrum, which will kill certain insects, but are harmless to man and other animals. Fortunately most of the fungicides used for protecting our melon vines and other garden crops are only mildly poisonous, but even at that I would not advise any of you to take any chances.

In closing today I want to remind you folks who have roses about your homes that the disease known as rose-leaf black-spot has already appeared in many places and that the roses should either be thoroughly sprayed with bordeaux mixture or dusted with dusting sulphur about every ten days to prevent the spread of this disease. Dusting sulphur is not the common sulphur that you buy in the drug stores but a special, very fine, form of sulphur that is prepared expressly for dusting plants. Incidentally it is this dusting sulphur that is used very widely for the control of brown-rot of peaches, plums and cherries. Dusting sulphur must be applied in advance of the appearance of the disease in order to be most effective.

# # #